

## The Nihilists.

Russia is adopting the most stringent measures with a view to crushing out the nihilists. In this morning's news it is stated that from 5,000 to 10,000 suspected persons will be sent in chains to the North-east—which means, we suppose, Siberia; and that a Governor General has been appointed for certain populous districts "with perfectly despotic powers."

If accounts are reliable the organization bearing this name is a most formidable one. It dates as far back as 1825. In its details it much resembles the Know Nothing organization which flourished in this country twenty-three years ago. Indeed the word nihil signifies nothing. Its purposes may, in brief, be described as communism, and that a Governor General has been appointed for certain populous districts "with perfectly despotic powers."

Of the nihilists women are especially zealous. Highborn young ladies have been known to leave home and go out to service for the purpose of inculcating the principles of communism in the employ of the Grand Duchess Catherine.

Not unlikely the strength of the organization has been exaggerated; but with its secret movements, its relentless purposes, and its wide spread ramifications one may readily believe that its late manifestations have thoroughly alarmed the government at St. Petersburg.

There was a scene in the House last week, growing out of two personal explanations which were made by Oscar Turner and Thomas Turner, both of Kentucky. It appears that the latter, in the recent session of the Michigan Legislature, had made a speech in which he had alluded to the "hard working citizen," from whom the \$100 was stolen, is still missing his money. The plain dictates of justice say that the culprit should be hanged until his wages pay the \$100 he stole, with interest, and also every expense incurred by the crime.

It is not now discussing objections in the State constitution; nor existing national discriminations against State banks; nor the manifold abuses to which such a plan could be made subject; but to the idea, assuming that objections can be removed, and abuses guarded against, above all things, let the country never again in its history tolerate any kind of

WILD CAT BANKS, which can only bring ruin and deception to the people. The distressed financial condition of our people demands relief, if it can be extended safely, honestly, and upon reasonable terms. We see no good reason why State banks could not be organized now on sound, safe, and sure basis, precisely as many States did before the war, and the money issued always be maintained as good. Let no money-shark ridicule the idea as a "mob bank," owned and controlled by a mob, and when the mob has enriched themselves they will leave the State ruined, and let no citizen imagine that the COURIER contemplates a State-banking machine to be driven up to every man's door to grind out State money enough to pay each individual's debts, for the COURIER advances no such ideas; but we do mean a State bank, established on a safe and practical basis, issuing a volume of paper at 4 per cent, capable of affording great relief to the people.

The people are at fault that they do not force candidates for the State Legislature to defined positions on such questions. The people should meet in neighborhoods, counties, and districts, and put forward plans of relief, and candidates capable of digesting and executing such plans. The plain, practical sense of the State need to hold such efforts of relief down to plain, practical sense rules, and not let demagogues engineer such movements into useless, visionary schemes.

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## A Kentucky State Bank.

A Measure for Relieving the People.

It is, perhaps, no exaggerated estimate to say that, one-half or three-fourths of the real estate owners in the State of Kentucky, are embarrassed to a greater or less extent, by heavy interest bearing debts, and that their condition appeals earnestly for any kind of reasonable and honest measures for relief. The land owners thus involved are the best men in the State, and their condition, in many instances, has been brought about by conditions and causes beyond their control as individuals. In other words, the shrinkage in values and general depreciations incident to the country dropping from war inflation prices down to solid gold values, has left them buffeting with losses and prospective bankruptcy.

The true theory—the best theory—and the final theory—in such conditions is for the citizen, embarrassed by debt, to look to himself for relief—to his own industry, economy, and management. But, the popular idea of the day is for the Government, by some political acrobatic, to relieve the people of debt. Hence, the politicians, from time to time, jump up temporary "stay laws," etc., to give relief; but stay laws only delay, and do not relieve.

There is no measure which can be endorsed as an unflinching panacea to a debt-burdened citizen, but we believe that a

WELL REGULATED STATE BANK, thoroughly guarded and restricted, could be made the means of immense relief to the people of Kentucky. Of course such an institution should be so thoroughly restricted by business rules as to make the State, at all times, and under all circumstances, safe; and this being thoroughly secured, let its grand object be directed to the relief of the land owners of the State of Kentucky.

The Government of the United States issues millions of

FOUR PER CENT. PAPER, which is not only taken at par, but is in great demand by money men, in preference to all other kind of money; and, if this is true, why might not the State of Kentucky issue a proportionately less amount, which would be in demand at 4 per cent? If placed upon as good, safe, and certain a financial basis as now characterizes the management of national finances, there is nothing to prevent a certain volume of State paper from being in as much demand at 4 per cent, as national paper now is; and, if based upon a well guarded idea of giving preference accommodation to Kentucky land owners at 4 per cent, in deferred installments, it certainly would give immeasurable relief to our people by cutting down the interest rates and giving them breathing space to adjust their fortunes to depreciated values.

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## THE PENITENTIARY.

What's to be Done? Enlarge, Branch or Change?

Our State exchanges are repeatedly referring to the crowded condition of the State penitentiary, and it is a foregone conclusion that our next Legislature will have to make some disposition of the penitentiary matter. It appears that our Legislature, for some years past, have been putting it off, until it can be put off no longer.

Humanity forbids the crowding of two or three prisoners into one narrow little cell, unless the taking of life be the object of such punishment; but, while it is clear to see that humanity forbids, it is not so clear as to what humanity and good government recommend. The usual idea and custom in such emergencies is to enlarge existing buildings, or build new branches in other parts of the State, the plea of humanity being answered when the sanitary conditions are complied with and little thought is given to the fact that the honest industry of the people is being taxed to support the thieves and criminals confined in the penitentiary. This latter phase of the question deserves consideration.

If the order of things could be reversed, and the convicted criminals of the State made to help support the honest citizens, it would be good.

Penitentiaries in other States are conducted so as to pay the State an annual revenue, and why may not the Kentucky penitentiary be so conducted? There is no good reason why it should not be made to pay precisely as in Tennessee. In Tennessee the prisoners are hired out to work in mines, on railroads, and for any and all purposes where their labor will pay. In Kentucky, under some kind of a false humanitarian idea, they are crowded in cells and made to work at trades, under great disadvantage, and the State meets the deficit.

A thief steals \$100 from a hard working citizen, and the State tries him for the offense, and, for punishment, sentences him to two years in the penitentiary. The result is the State gets revenge on the unfortunate wretch and boards, clothes, and cares for him, two years at her own expense, and the "hard working citizen," from whom the \$100 was stolen, is still missing his money. The plain dictates of justice say that the culprit should be hanged until his wages pay the \$100 he stole, with interest, and also every expense incurred by the crime.

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## THE VETO.

The Government Supplies Stopped.

The two Houses of Congress passed the bill making the necessary appropriations to supply the army for the year commencing June 30, 1879; but President Hayes vetoed the bill, and so, after June 30, the army will be without pay or supplies, unless some accommodation is reached or some compromise effected.

Divested of extraneous questions the issues before the country are—

1. Shall Federal soldiers be stationed at the polls?

2. Shall Federal supervisors be allowed to interfere in popular elections?

Republicans say, Yes. Democrats say, No.

The Democrats have the right and sole power to provide or refuse the money necessary to the running of the Government in any, each and all its departments; and the Republicans, through their President, have the right to veto any and all such bills, which can only be passed by a two third vote over the veto of the President, and the Democrats have not this necessary two thirds majority.

So the United States Government is at a dead lock, and can't stir a wheel after the 30th of next June.

The Democrats are clearly right in their position—they demand the unconditional repeal of the law authorizing the use of the army at elections, and refuse to vote any supplies unless such repeal is consented to by the President.

Our Government never in its history, until the late civil war, demanded for the President the right to use the army in Federal elections, and during all that anti-war period our elections were pure and fair; and hence we may assume they will be so in the future if the army is forbidden to interfere.

On the contrary the Republicans assume that the use of the army at the polls is of importance to the protection of voters and to insure a fair election.

The situation is serious; but, some terms will no doubt be arranged.

HON. OSCAR TURNER keeps himself busy at Washington looking after the interests of his constituents. We find in the Congressional proceedings of the 22d ult., the following:

"Mr. Oscar Turner introduced a bill (H. R. No. 600) to provide for the construction of a public building at the city of Paducah, State of Kentucky, which was read a first and second time, referred to the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, and ordered to be printed.

The sanitary association of citizens of New Orleans are having the cemeteries covered two feet deep with river sand, and Gov. Nichols has issued a proclamation establishing quarantine from and after May 1st against West India, South American and Central American ports.

## Transferring Negroes to the West.

Is It a Good or Bad Move.

The negro emigration movement from the Southern States, began the 1st of March. When 280 negroes boarded the steamer *Col. of Memphis* for St. Louis. Since that time 2,700 negroes have left the States of Louisiana and Mississippi for Kansas.

This movement was and is clearly a political movement, originated to make capital for the Republican party in the Presidential campaign of next year; but, since the move has been inaugurated, might it not be well for the southern people to consider the situation philosophically as to whether or not such emigration is not mutually advantageous both to the whites and blacks.

The ceaseless disturbances which have existed in the extreme Southern States between the whites and blacks, fomented by political enemies, discourages the prosperity of those States as well as of the whole country, and if the black men of the south voluntarily scatter over the North and West, the incentive to these disturbances will to that extent be removed, and their actual, practical experience in the other sections bring to the negro the realization of the fact that he is being treated as well in the South as in the North or West.

The Southern people desire and need the strong arm of the colored men on their farms and in the various industries, and ninety percent, of the colored people will find after actual experience that the Southern life and Southern customs to which they have been born, is more congenial to their taste and nature; and we say further that 90 per cent of the colored people will stay in the South. We say this movement now in progress is a political machine, not designed to benefit the colored man, but to make capital for the republican party.

The Republican idea is to make it appear that the negro is being treated so badly in the south that he is compelled to fly to the West to escape this brutal oppression; and the still further and stronger point to rush this exodus excitement to the end of cutting the number of Congressmen down by the 1880 census, and by this tactics secure a Republican Congress for the next ten years.

Senator Voor











